

BY NEIL MACDONALD.



And where the furious cannonade  
Aroused the echoes in the glade,  
Where earth yawned wide at touch of shell,  
Where heroes fought and heroes fell,  
No trace remains this verdant May,  
But grassy mounds to tell of fray.

O! may we with kind Nature vie  
And let old feuds and rancor die;  
Recall the strife—our heroes slain,  
Though not a trace of hate remain,  
And on this bright Memorial Day  
Strew woodland flowers for Blue and Gray.



And where the weeping willows wave  
Their drooping branches o'er the grave  
Of one who fell in war's array,  
The soft winds sigh this summer's day  
As if the calm of peace had been  
For aye supreme mid such a scene.

And where the river to the sea  
Ran crimsoned past a verdant lea,  
Where riven trees and scarred hillsides  
Once told of war, now naught abides,  
Where death held court in battle's hours,  
But summer calm and bloom and flowers.



**T**HE latest utterances of two prominent men, one on either side of the Boer-British controversy, would seem to indicate that the spirit of neither is crushed, and that the war will be pursued to the bitter end. Says President Steyn of the Orange Free State: "We will fight at the Vaal river, at Pretoria and afterwards in the mountains. We have nothing to gain from peace—everything by fighting."

Safely within the guarded confines of the "tight little island," thousands of miles distant from the roar of battle and the din of conflict, England's premier, Lord Salisbury, oracularly delivers himself as follows: "Under the brilliant guidance of Lord Roberts 200,000 soldiers—a larger army than has ever before been sent across the same expanse of sea—are now engaged in reducing the disobedient to the queen those territories which never ought to have been released and restoring to South Africa the only chance it was of peace, development and immortality."

There is little doubt that these two voices are arguments of either side. There is as yet no holding out of the olive branch, and as for one thing could more enrage the sturdy Boers than another it is to be informed that they are to be "reduced to obedience" by the queen," which is only another way of saying that they will be expected to contribute toward supporting the royal family of Great Britain. It was just because these Boers would not consent to become the slavish and servile adulators of the royal puppets and refused "obedience" to a foreign sovereign that they "trekked" out from the Cape, and then again far beyond the veldt and into the mountains, where their capital is now situated.

But it is one thing for Lord Sallisbury to declare what his intentions are and quite another to force the Boers to terms. It is now seven months since war was declared and Generals Gatacre and Buller landed in Africa, with their baggage marked "Pretoria, via the Cape," seven long months since the warcry was raised—"On to Pretoria!"—and what has been accomplished?

At the very outset the British were taken by surprise, and the bodies of troops they had at different points ready for invasion of the Transvaal instead of being allowed to march forth to ravage and conquer found themselves, much to their disgust, surrounded by overwhelming forces of the enemy. Then ensued that long period of humiliation to which the British were forced, when one after another their ablest generals walked meekly into the little traps the Boers had prepared and were brought to a standstill.

The first engagement of the war was at Mafeking Oct. 15, 1899, when the British were driven behind their intrenchments. General Buller was forced to seek refuge in Ladysmith, his men almost naked and demoralized, and there his superior, General White, after several disastrous engagements with the enemy, withdrew within his fortifications and endured for months the siege that has passed into history. Meanwhile three large expeditions had landed in Africa and were sent forward, one to relieve Kimberley, another to invade the Free State and another for the relief of Ladysmith. The first, under General Lord Methuen, had not advanced more than two days from its

base when it was stopped by an opposing force of Boers, and then allowed to go on until, at Modder River, the last move was made, and the Boers had about 600 men, and was obliged to stay there at the Boers' pleasure.

General Buller had intended to assault the Free State, but he was alarmed at the news from Ladysmith and gave the command of the army to Buller, and over to Gatacre, himself going to the relief of General White. But General Gatacre walked right into a Boer trap at Stormberg, and for a long time it was feared that his whole force would either be killed or deserted. As for General Buller, all the world knows what happened to him; in brief, it was what happened to all the others—he was out-generated, brought to a halt and only allowed to fight whenever the Boers had the advantage. He was obliged to slaughter his men without overexposing himself.

During the first two months of the war the Boers had a round of the dozen of the British generals "bottled up," and then they were kept until the arrival of overwhelming reinforcements under Lords Roberts and Kitchener.

With the coming of "Little Boats" things took on a more rosy hue. By the skillful use of the enormous force at his command he flanked that redoubtable old lion Cronje out of his lair and eventually caused his surrender, with several thousand of his men.

Another great loss to the Boers about this time, the death by disease of General Joubert, and the capture of several foreign auxiliaries who were serving in the federal army. All the beleaguered points were relieved.

Infelically, one after another, the Boers slowly retreating toward their great central base in the direction of Pretoria. This withdrawal, however, can hardly be called a retreat, since it had been anticipated in the Boer scheme of operations and was expected by them in case the British came upon them in overwhelming numbers. But they continued to harass the British lines of communication by sudden dashes at exposed points and by gathering in small parties of the best of infantry or cavalry, and whenever the van of the English columns came up with the rear guard of their enemies they discovered the snarling bear had teeth, which it used to good advantage upon the too sanguine foe.


After the inevitable capture of the Free State capital, Bloemfontein, Roberts halted awhile to rest and recuperate, and to perfect a plan of communication with the Cape, nearly 500 miles in length; to replenish his exhausted stores, and to fill the gaps in the cavalry ranks.

Up to this point the respective losses were all of two to one against the British, and the number of prisoners, aggregating over 4,000, have become a severe tax upon the hospitality of the Boers, notwithstanding the vast amounts of provisions of all kinds they have been accumulating for years.

Great Britain now has 200,000 men in the field, commanded by the greatest of her generals and supported at an expense which the British taxpayer may well regard with dismay. At last, but only after having it hammered into her by repeated thrashings, she has taken the real measure of her antagonist and has come to the conclusion that he is "not so easy" after all.

Has Great Britain, even now, an adequate comprehension of the terrible task before her brave fellows, and does she realize that what has already been done, vast as it may appear, is but a sense merely preparatory to what is to come? "Bobs" has marched his army hundreds of miles from his real base of supplies. With the retreat of the Boers from the Drakenberg mountain passes, the release of General Buller and the evacuation of several Free State towns, Roberts will be enabled to establish a new base, via Ladysmith, at Durban on the coast and

A black and white woodblock print illustration of a mountainous landscape. The scene features steep, rocky cliffs with a winding path or riverbed. In the upper right, a small structure is visible on a high ridge. The foreground shows a steep slope with a small building and a figure. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border.

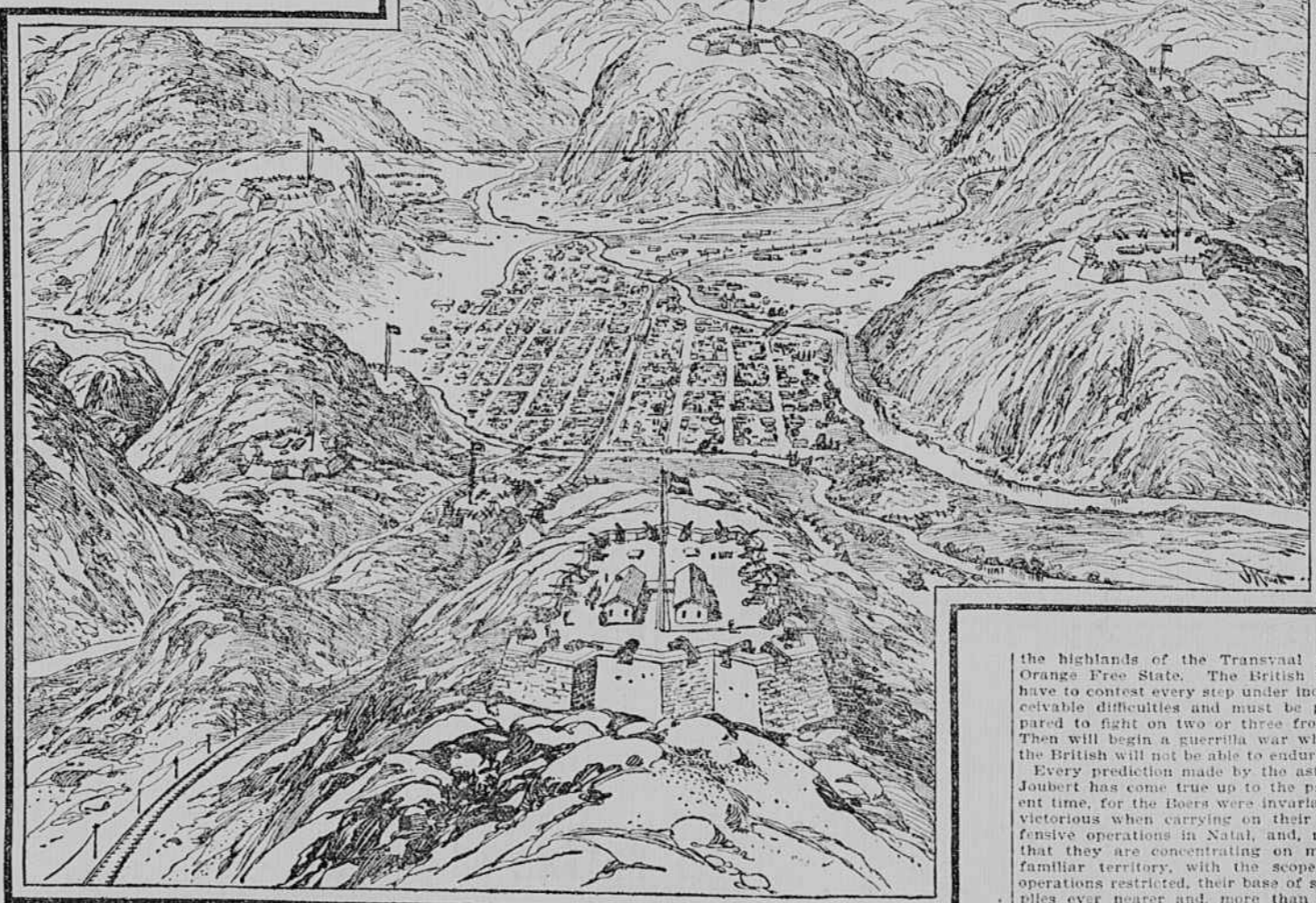



**BIRDSEYE**

thus reduce the distance by 200 or 300 miles. He will then have two lines of railroad behind and tributary to him most of the way, and, with the fall of Johannesburg or Elandsfontein will secure a third, over which to roll supplies from the coast to the interior.

It is at this juncture that the necessity is felt for a more direct line of communication with the coast, and the inability of the British

the world awaits anxiously the next move in their elaborate scheme of defense.



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF PRETORIA, SHOWING DEFENSES.

of the best Boer commanders, who purpose contesting every mile of the advance which, begun on the 1st of May, pressed steadily onward at the rate of about eight miles a day. The aggressive force consisted of 35,000 men and 140 guns, with as many more quickly available in reserve. The distance from Bloemfontein to the Zand river, reached on May 10, is 90 miles; to

215 miles, and to Pretoria 290 miles. Between the Vaal and Pretoria, and only 37 miles southwardly from the Boer capital, lies the real bone of contention—the gold mines of the Rand, which have an output more than equaling that of all other gold mines in the world combined.

It is only 16 years since gold was found in South Africa, and 15 since the first stamp mill was erected at Johannesburg, and yet from the comparatively small area so far exploited gold to the amount of nearly £400,000,000 has been produced.

These mines belong to the uitlanders, though at present in the clutches of the Boers, who have more than intimated that in event of the arrival of the British army all will be destroyed. The output of the Johannesburg mines can be made to rise £2,000,000 annually, and, if the Boers are not ejected, they can derive a revenue that will enable them to continue their defense for many years to come—in fact, so long as their courage holds out. But it has been asserted, and as often denied, that the mines are already charged with dynamite, and that the Boers will explode and take possession they will ascend skyward in the grandest blaze of pyrotechnics ever conceived by man.

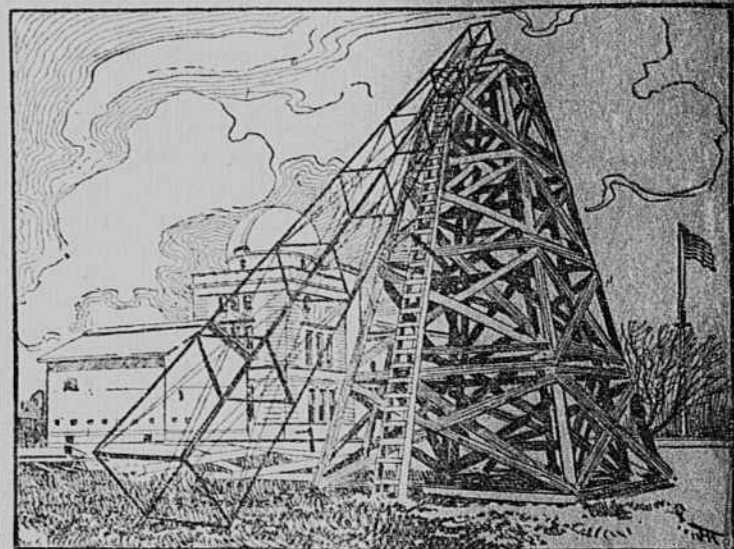
Speculation is rife as to the probability of the Boers doing this, for they could gain nothing by it but revenge and the satisfaction of saddling upon the foreign stockholders losses that would be almost incalculable. But Kruger and his burghers have already shown that patriotism is above everything in their estimation and freedom more to them than gold or gems.

Thirty-seven miles beyond Johannesburg, more than 1,000 miles from Cape Town, 511 miles from the British port of Durban and 348 miles from the Portuguese harbor of Delagoa Bay, lies the great objective of all Lord Roberts' policy, the capital city of the Transvaal, and the probable last important stand of the Boers. It has a population in time of peace of about 15,000, its streets are good, and it is lighted by electricity and traversed by surface cars. The most imposing building is the house of parliament, which cost \$1,000,000. On the opposite side of the central square on which it stands are the law courts, likewise grand and of modern design. There are also a public library, a market building erected at a cost of \$150,000, a museum containing a collection of African curios and a church of the same material. From natural springs three miles distant the city gets a never failing supply of pure water, and there is a good sewerage system.

The best engineers of Europe have been for 15 years engaged in making Pretoria as nearly impregnable as possible, and the result is not all evident to the eye. The main features have been kept secret. More than 100 miles have been adapted, been examined and

most of which they succeeded in bringing off in their retreat. But these, they say, are as nothing compared with those they have in position on the hills around Pretoria. And as to ammunition and provisions—these also for years have been quietly accumulating and are being drawn away for the weeks, months—if need be, for the years. Pretoria shall be isolated from the outside world. The great sieges of our century, particularly those of Plevna and of Paris, have shown what man can sustain upon at a pinch, and Sevastopol has furnished an example of what intrenched soldiers can do in the way of resistance to attacking masses.

A late employee of the United States government who recently visited Pre-



MAMMOTH SNAP SHOT CAMERA FOR THE ECLIPSE

The illustration shows the skeleton framework of the monster, which will be used to snap shot the eclipse of the sun as the area of totality passes over Pinehurst, N. C. The framework, which is more than 50 feet high, was built at the Washington naval observatory.

torla says: "I viewed the defenses and consider them impregnable. I do not believe English troops will ever pass the line of hills surrounding the town, bristling as they are with high power Krupp and Creusot guns."

All who have had a glimpse of the Pretoria fortifications are agreed that the Boers are fully equipped for a severe and protracted struggle and will be able to hold the British off for an indefinite period. The last time, in October General Joubert declared, "Ever since the Jameson raid of 1896 our government was convinced that England would be urged to war with us, and we were equally sure that we should have to rely upon our own resources." Knowing this, the Boers prepared for defense and tried to keep the English in the dark as to our real preparations. To this purpose we gave their disguised spies access to our antiquated guns, but were careful to conceal from them the modern weapons which we had bought from the English. The English credited these misleading reports \* \* \* and their cry 'On to Pretoria!' is on a level of intelligence with the Parisian cry of 1870, 'A Berlin!' A war of defense would present for us greater advantages than an offensive

## ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

How the First Prediction of the Darkening of "Old Sol" Was Received by the Ancient Babylonians.

The approach of the date of the total eclipse of the sun makes interesting the following account of the first prediction of an eclipse thousands of years ago by a Babylonian who had given to the subject a lifetime of study. The monument reared to his memory was unfortunately so defaced before the importance of his achievement had come to be generally known.

erally understood that his name  
lost to posterity. The following  
account taken from "The Origin  
en," a collection in book form  
of letters delivered by General  
by MacKintosh Mitchell, the  
warrior-astronomer:

"This daring man, stern in  
climbs alone to his rocky  
grets the sun as he rises ar  
the heavens, scattering bright  
ragnory in his path. Beneath  
out the populous city, all  
with life and activity. The  
ing hum rises on the still  
is the watching place of  
sternness. There the thousand  
unconscious of his intense  
buoyant with life, joyously  
rounds of business, there  
amusement. The sun slowly  
heaven, round and bright  
ed. The lone tenant to  
top almost begins to  
sternness of his  
hour on away. But the time  
triumph, long delayed, at length  
to dawn; a pale  
over the face of  
his bright point, but  
splendor is dimmed, his  
last it comes! Blackness is eating  
his round disk; onward with slow  
steady pace the dark veil moves  
blacker than a thousand nights;  
the gloom deepens, the ghastly hue of death  
covers the universe, the last ray is gone  
and horror begins! A wall of terror  
the murky air, the clangor of brass  
trumpets resounds, an agony of despair  
dashes the stricken millions to the  
ground, with that one man, erect  
of his summit, the  
to heaven, pours forth the grateful  
gushings of his heart to God, who  
has crowned his efforts with triumphant  
victory. Search the records of our race  
and point me, if you can, to a more  
grand, more beautiful. It is to me  
the proudest victory that genius  
won. It was the conquering of nature  
of ignorance, of superstition, of terror  
all at one blow, and that blow was  
struck by a single arm. And now  
you demand the name of this wonder-  
ful man. Ah, what a lesson of the  
instability of earthly fame are we  
taught by this simple recital! He who  
had raised himself immeasurably above  
his race, who must have been regarded  
by his fellows as little less than a god  
who had inscribed his fame on the vault  
of heaven and had written it in the  
with a 'pen of iron and a point of  
diamond,' even this has perished from  
the earth. Name, age, country  
are swept into oblivion: but his  
proud achievement remains. The most  
unmeasured years of his honor stand, al-  
though the touch of time has effaced  
the lettering of his name, it is power-  
less and cannot destroy the fruits of his  
victory."

**BRITAIN'S BIT OF ROCK.**

They have an interesting ceremony at Gibraltar. The town and fortress lie at the end of a peninsula about a mile and a half long, the mainland being Spanish territory. The gate leading to Spain is every evening locked at sunset and remains so morning after morning. Each day a company from one of the regiments performs one of these functions. In the morning the company is fully officered, with colors flying and accompanied by a band, marches to the commandant's house. The company consists of a battalion, and the band consists of a band of brass and a velvet cushion. These are received by the captain's orderly, the band strikes up, and the procession marches to the gate, which is unlocked with great ceremony. In the evening the same ceremony takes place, but the reverse order is gone through. The suspicious characters are put out of the town before the gates are locked in the evening.

### MILAN'S LAZY LIFE

The laziest of the royalties is the ex-King Milan of Serbia. He never gets up before 12 o'clock. When he rises he sits down half dressed to lunch—solid repast of heavy meats and puddings and wines. After luncheon he smokes a couple of cigars—he likes them very strong—then, if there is nothing very pressing to be done, he goes to bed and again reads or smokes or sleeps. He is up again at 10 o'clock he is up again, and generally goes out in search of amusement. He is very seldom back at the palace.